

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held November 7, 1916, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry G. Barber in the chair with 14 members and six visitors present.

The Curator reported the rearrangement of the Local Collection of Bruchidæ and Cucujidæ at the Saturday afternoon meetings and announced the subject for November 19—Colydiidæ.

Mr. William Dunn, of 15 Broad St., was nominated for active membership by Mr. Dow.

Prof. W. S. Wright of San Diego, Cal. (local address 403 W. 115th St.), was nominated for active membership by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Dow read a paper on the "Proper Pronunciation of Scientific Names," in which he pointed out, after giving credit to A. L. Melander, of the State College of Washington, that such names, being supposedly Latin words, should follow the recognized American sound and accents were which explained in detail and numerous illustrations were given, of which a few, quite different to the usual pronunciation employed, as *Cuterebra*, *Aeschna*, *Pleocoma*, *Xyleborus*, *Pentatoma*, *Galerita*, *Forficula*, *Amara*, *Hippodamia*, *Nemognatha*, *Pachybrachys*, made a deep impression.

The paper was discussed by Mr. Dickerson, who said the importance of a correct and uniform pronunciation was recognized in the latest text books; by Dr. Forbes, who pointed out some differences of opinion, among experts on the subject; by Mr. Davis, who praised Francis Walker for coining words we can all pronounce; and by Messrs. Sherman and Barber. Mr. Dow closed the discussion by a reference to Spinola coining 38 scientific names by making anagrams of his sweetheart's name.

Dr. Forbes spoke on the "Auditory Organs of the Lepidoptera," illustrating his remarks by blackboard diagrams, drawings and specimens shown under the microscope. His remarks will be published in "Psyche."

Mr. Woodruff exhibited the insects caught at Lakehurst, October 12, 1916, while there with Mr. Davis, consisting of many moths taken at sugar, among which *Xylina patelfacta*, an addition to the New Jersey List, was especially noteworthy, Coleoptera largely from beneath pine bark including a series of *Rhagium lineatum* found lately matured in its nests, and Orthoptera of which a long winged *Conocephalus brevipenne* was conspicuous.

Mr. Davis, commenting on the same excursion, said the nights were so cold that overcoats were a comfort, and that the moths though numerous were numb; it recalled published accounts of sugaring in winter.

There was a surprising scarcity of Orthoptera also in comparison with a previous trip at the same date, but specimens of *Oecanthus exclamationis* were the first of the species found at Lakehurst.

Mr. Davis also showed by original notes sent to the late John B. Smith, that he had not reported *Elater nigrinus* but *Elater nigricans*, the error being due to similarity of name and one for which he was not responsible.

Mr. Davis also exhibited *Vanessa milberti*, found November 3, 1916, at Dongan Hills, Staten Island, confirming a previous record by Gustav Beyer.

Dr. Forbes suggested a series of Saturday afternoon meetings devoted to Lepidoptera to alternate with the Coleoptera meetings. Messrs. Woodruff, Davis, Shoemaker and Mutchler approved the suggestion, and the first meeting was arranged for November 12.

#### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held November 21, 1916, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History; President Harry G. Barber in the chair with 21 members and eight visitors, including Dr. Bequaert, Prof. Wright, Dr. and Mrs. M. Blyn, Messrs. Burns, Richardson, Mabie and Dr. M. Garcia-Banus of Madrid, present.

The Curator reported completion of Local Collection of Colydiidae at the Saturday afternoon meeting of coleopterists and announced the subject for December 2 as Monotomidae, Rhyssodidae and Lyctidae.

Mr. Davis reported the study of *Notodonta* at the Saturday meeting of Lepidopterists, expressing his appreciation of the assistance of Dr. W. F. M. Forbes and announced the subject for Nov. 25 as *Acronycta*.

On motion, the Secretary, as instructed, cast an affirmative ballot for the election of Mr. William Dunn of New York and Prof. W. S. Wright, of San Diego, Cal., as active members of the Society.

Mr. Leng announced that Mr. Howard Notman, 136 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, had undertaken, with the consent of Dr. Bradley, the preparation of the Mss. of the N. Y. State List of Insects, Coleoptera, and that records therefor should in future be sent to him.

Mr. Bird read a paper on "A New *Papaipema* Species Occurring in our Fifty-mile Zone" and exhibited specimens of the adult moth and its larva. This paper will be published in full.

Dr. Bequaert read a paper "On American Wasps" illustrated by specimens and blackboard enumeration of the species of Wasps. The latter will be found in Miscellaneous Notes.

The paper was discussed by Mr. Dow, who recalled nests observed at Williamstown, Mass., and Lahaway, N. J., by Dr. Lutz, who mentioned the extraordinary nests of *V. crabro* beneath the verandah of Mr. E. D. Harris's home at Yonkers, N. Y., and other nests found by Dr. Love; by Mr. Davis, who pointed out that the darker-colored nests made by *V. maculata* resulted from its preference for dead wood, like old fence posts, while the paler color of *crabro* nests was the result of its using new wood, as for instance those he had watched in Mr. Bird's garden, gnawing of lilac bark; by Dr. Forbes, who referred to the nests, possibly of *diabolica*, commonly found in New England stone walls; by Mr. Schaeffer, Mr. Olsen and others.

In reply to a question, Dr. Bequaert said the wasps of temperate climes were less unkind to man than those he had studied in the tropics, so that he had found it possible to pursue his investigations without being stung very much, and that *maculata* was less liable to sting than other species.

Dr. Bequaert also exhibited *Volucella fasciata*, bred from *Opuntia* leaves, and *Methoca stygia* Say ♀ (♂ = *bicolor* Say).

Mr. Bird exhibited a wasp attached to a bare golden rod stem, as he had observed it sleeping, and labelled "*Ammophila pictipennis* in the arms of Morpheus."

Mr. Barber read a paper on "Interesting Hemiptera taken in Virginia in 1916," illustrated by specimens, in which he referred to his visits to Vienna, Va., Great Falls, Va., Chesapeake Beach, Md., Glen Falls and Washington, D. C., in part with Mr. Otto Heidemann, and to the wealth of rare species found there, due to its more southern latitude, the extent of wild forest land, the migration of species eastward via Potomac river and northward via Piedmont plateau and Atlantic coastal plain.

Mr. Mutchler exhibited a specimen of the longhorn beetle *Chlorophorus annularis* Fab., known from India, Java, Sumatra, and Borneo, found by W. S. Blatchley at Dunedin, Fla. He also exhibited for Mr. Weiss, *Acypotheus orchivora* Blackb., a weevil found under glass in New Jersey attacking stalks of *Dendrobium* sp. and *Vincetoxicum japonicum* as an insect catching plant with mosquitoes, flies and moths caught in its flowers.

#### MEETING OF DECEMBER 5.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held December 5, 1916, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 23 members and eight visitors, including Dr. M. Garcia-Banus, of the Rockefeller Institute, present.

The Curator reported further work on the Local Collection and announced the subject for the next Saturday afternoon meeting, the family Buprestidæ.

The following members were elected by ballot cast by the Secretary, Messrs. Burns, Bequaert, Richardson.

The death of Mr. Otto Heidemann was referred to with regret by Messrs. Davis, Olsen and the President.

The Secretary exhibited Vol. 1, No. 1, of a new serial, The Lepidopterist, and the advertisement of a new maker of pin labels.

Mr. Shannon read a paper on "Autumn Migrations of Butterflies on Long Island," in which he gave precise data from personal observation of a strong westward movement of several species, among which the monarch butterfly (*Anosia plexippus*), was conspicuous, and an eastward movement of a few others, including *Callidryas eubule*. The paper will be published in full elsewhere; it elicited prolonged discussion in which Dr. Forbes, Dr. Bequaert and Messrs. Davis, Dow, Engelhardt, Wright, Olsen, Comstock, Watson and Bird took part. Mr. Shannon's facts were corroborated by the observations of Mr. Dow on the water between Long Island and Staten Island and by

entries in Mr. Davis's journal of flights observed on Staten Island. The enormous numbers of monarch butterflies congregated in limited areas, 10,000 or more in some instances, were mentioned by Messrs. Dow and Olsen. Mr. Davis noted that the eastward migrating species like *C. eubule* breed southward, while the westward moving species like *A. plexippus*, breed on Long Island and northward. He stated that *A. plexippus* does not hibernate on Staten Island though much worn specimens occur there in May.

His latest date for this species was November 25, 1894, one found at Tottenville, frozen to death.

Instances of unusual flights of many other species of Lepidoptera and Odonota were recalled and a number of explanations were offered; Dr. Bequaert mentioned similar flights observed in Africa where the forest makes the observation more difficult, Prof. Wright told of what he had noticed in southern California where the collecting was good at the end of a wharf  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles out at sea; Mr. Bird spoke of spring migrations across the Sound; Mr. Watson recorded larvæ of *C. eubule* found near Princeton on *Cassia marylandica*; Mr. Davis said *C. eubule* bred in numbers along the James River in Virginia and that the species reached Staten Island in its northward flight between September 15 and 20. Mr. Shannon told of having marked 1,000 *A. plexippus* by a peculiar cut in the wing in the hope of ascertaining thereby the extent of their flight.

Mr. Davis, referring to unusual appearances of hibernating butterflies said that it was in the latter part of March, 1907, when owing to the very warm weather all of the hibernating butterflies came out together. *Pyrameis atalanta* and *P. huntera* usually are later about waking up than some of the others. *Anax junius* hatched out or emerged at the same time. Later we had cold weather.

Mr. Davis, under the title "Interesting Insects from Staten Island," read a paper on *Ammodonus fossor*, which will be printed in full, and exhibited several boxes, illustrating among other things, dragon flies, cicadas and nut-weevils, drowned and washed up on Rockaway beach; *Cicindela dorsalis* caught at Long Beach, L. I., on September 21; his collection of *Vespa* as named by Dr. Love and Dr. Bequaert, including nests of *V. crabro* and *V. communis* made from live wood, and nests of *V. maculata* and *V. diabolica* made from dead wood; his remarks on the food of wasps elicited some discussion by which it appeared that while *Microbembyx* may use parts of dead insects, the Bembicidæ generally confine themselves to living insects.

Mr. Davis also showed ghost crabs from Old Point Comfort and Long Island, saying that they live several years in the south and attain great size, but apparently do not reach sexual maturity on Long Island, where they are always much smaller.

Mr. Nicolay exhibited *Buprestis connexa*, collected in the Blue Mountains, Oregon, by W. Chamberlain, August 6, 1914, on *Pinus ponderosa*.

## MEETING OF DECEMBER 19.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held December 19, 1916, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 25 members and a number of visitors, including Prof. J. S. Hine and Prof. E. E. Calder, present.

The president appointed as a Nominating Committee Dr. Lutz, Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Shefman.

Mr. Dow read a paper on "The Insect Progeny of Adam's First Wife" in which he reviewed the myth of Lilith, who, according to the Talmud, was the wife of Adam before the creation of Eve, but, leaving her husband, became the consort of Beelzebub and the mother of noxious insects. The analogy between Beelzebub, the Semitic lord of flies, and similar conceptions of other ancient nations was considered and numerous citations from Hebrew writings were given to illustrate that, as pointed out in previous papers on Zend, Sanscrit and Egyptian antiquities, it is the insects hurtful to man, like hornets, bees, flies, etc., that first attracted notice. In closing Mr. Dow traced the myth of Lilith through to modern times and mentioned some of the modern words derived from her name.

Dr. Forbes exhibited part of the Seifert collection and spoke of the evidence it presented of "Mendelian Variation in *Apantesis*." He first explained briefly the theory of Mendel and then illustrated it by the variations shown in the bred families of *phalerata*, *vittata* and *nais*, with the conclusion that mere breeding true is not a test of specific difference in *Apantesis*.

His remarks were discussed by Messrs. Angell, Weeks and Davis, the latter asking why the extensive breeding experiments of Dr. Seifert did not disclose more mutations.

Dr. Forbes pointed to a specimen with transparent hind-wing border area as a possible example of mutation; and the comparatively small number bred as the reason for there being no more.

Mr. Dow in this connection spoke of the work now in progress by Teetz and Mr. Olsen spoke of *Papilio glaucus*.

Mr. Wright read a paper, "Notes on Californian Lepidoptera," illustrated by many specimens of *Pherne vernalaria* and *Larentia switzeraria* and *swettaria* and their variations. He described some of his collecting places and spoke of the collectors and authors who have worked with Californian geometers; dwelling particularly upon the enormous numbers in which some species were obtained and their great variability, leading often to synonymy in descriptive work.

Dr. Forbes said that he had found the variability quite as great in some eastern species and gave instances of some errors due thereto.

Prof. J. S. Hine, upon invitation by the President, spoke briefly of his studies in Diptera and particularly Tabanidæ, which as carriers of disease in cattle, are become constantly of increasing economic importance.

## MEETING OF JANUARY 2.

The annual meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held January 2, 1917, at 8:15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry G. Barber in the chair, with 18 members and several visitors present.

The report of the Nominating Committee recommending the reelection of all the officers was read. On motion the nominations were closed and the Secretary cast an affirmative ballot, thereby reelecting the present officers.

The Entertainment Committee reported the acceptance by 53 visitors of the supper invitation, December 27, and a total attendance of 92 at that function.

The resignation of Herman Hug was read and accepted with regret.

The death of Dr. J. B. Knapp was announced and a minute expressing the regret of his fellow members is herewith entered.

Letters were read from W. Hague Harrington in reference to non-receipt of JOURNAL, which was referred to the Librarian, and from R. P. Dow, in reference to Green Brook and Alpine, N. J., and their preservation. The Secretary was instructed re the latter to write the chairman of the Palisades Park Commission, protesting in the name of the Society against further spoliation of natural scenery.

Dr. Bequaert exhibited a case of African wasps with maps illustrating their distribution and read a paper entitled "Color Varieties of *Eumenes maxillosus* and their Distribution" in which he said that the general conclusions derived from the study of African wasps received from the Lang and Chapin Expedition and other sources, might be useful in the study of American wasps. The color, though in some exceptional cases remarkably constant, was usually of less value than structure and sculpture as an index of specific identity; in many places the same coloration occurred in two distinct species and in one region the same arrangement of colors occurred in six different genera. The varieties of *Eumenes maxillosus* were discussed in detail, ten forms being included, though it was admitted that the single Australian form was more distinct than most.

Dr. Forbes, in discussing the paper, spoke of cases of similar coloration of Lepidoptera, usually attributed to mimicry.

Mr. Davis after mentioning a remarkable case of similar coloration in Cicadas of different genera, received from John Woodgate, cited the variable structure of the cerci of *Aptenopedes*, a character always regarded as indicative of species, as an instance of structure being, at least sometimes, as subject to variation as color.

Mr. Schaeffer gave instances of similar variation in sculpture, saying that considerable experience was necessary to detect the variable characters for each group.

Mr. Leng referring to similarity of coloration in different species being at times climatic, mentioned the tiger beetles of the Atlantic region, many species of which become more strongly maculate with white in the northern part of their range.



Dr. Forbes said the same was true of some Noctuids in which a green color indicated an eastern habitat.

Mr. Schaeffer said notwithstanding some objections his studies of our variable western *Eumenes* made it certain that too much reliance had heretofore been placed on color characters and he was fully in accord with Dr. Bequaert's views.

Mr. Leng read a paper, "Notes on New Coleoptera," and exhibited specimens of two new species of *Arthromacra*, a new variety of *Scaphinotus*, and an introduced species of *Syncalypta*, closing with a discussion of the synonymy of *Hymenorus* or *Mycetochara rufipes*.

His remarks were discussed by Messrs. Woodruff, Davis and Schaeffer.

Mr. Schaeffer exhibited a specimen of *Vespa austriaca*, taken by Mr. Engelhardt on Mt. Hood, Oregon, stating that this capture in conjunction with those previously recorded, established the indigenous character of the species.

Dr. Bequaert said he was probably correct and to facilitate the recognition of the species gave some characters by which it could be recognized, viz.: the short oculo-molar space by which the eyes almost reach the base of the mandibles and the upper side of the hind tibiae provided with long hairs.

Mr. Dow exhibited the following types and cotypes from his collection which he had presented to the American Museum of Natural History, viz.:

*Cicindela anita*, named in honor of Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson.

*Cicindela marutha*, named in honor of Mrs. Dow.

*Cicindela ancocisconensis dowiana* Casey.

*Temnochila nyenta* named in honor of our Society.

Mr. Woodruff exhibited the dragon fly, *Hagenius brevistylus*, and its remarkable pupa, which he had obtained from a mountain brook and raised to maturity.

Mr. Davis, commenting on the size and powers of flight of this dragon fly, said that it bothered the butterflies more than most birds.

Mr. Davis exhibited his remarkable collection of Chrysops flies, saying that a large proportion of the species of New Jersey were represented and correctly named for him by his Diptera-loving friends.

#### MEETING OF JANUARY 16.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8:15 P. M., January 16, 1917, in the American Museum of Natural History, President H. G. Barber in the chair, with twenty-one members and a few visitors present.

The Curator reported a donation of 24 spp. Odonata from Mr. Woodruff.

Prof. Edwin E. Calder, 4 Market Sq., Providence, R. I., was proposed for active membership by Mr. Leng.

The Secretary read a letter from Mrs. Abbie Fitch Andrews, presenting a photograph of Asa Fitch homestead at Fitch's Point, near Salem, N. Y.

The Vice-President taking the chair, Mr. Barber read his Presidential Address, devoted to a detailed consideration of the modifications of structures

in Hemiptera in adaptation to their several life habits, dealing in turn with the structures involved in feeding, locomotion and reproduction.

His remarks were discussed by Mr. Davis, Mr. Dickerson and Dr. Lutz.

Mr. Nicolay read a paper on "*Anthophilax* and other northern Cerambycidæ," which will be printed in the JOURNAL. His remarks were discussed by Messrs. Davis, Leng, Barber, Weiss and Dr. Forbes.

Mr. Weiss said that while *Rhododendron* leaves were not often attacked by beetles, the snout beetle, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus*, feeds on the foliage in the adult stage and on the roots in its larval stage.

Mr. Dickerson added that they might be trapped beneath boards.

Mr. Davis and Dr. Forbes commented on the gaps in the distribution of *Anthophilax*, which Mr. Leng said might be only apparent, due to the early date at which they appeared, according to Mr. Nicolay's data.

Mr. Davis, reverting to Mr. Dow's account of *Lilith*, Adam's first wife, exhibited females of *Automeris io* var. *lilith* and pointed out how little they differed from *io*.

Dr. Forbes said the difference was in the male and added: "You cannot be sure of females anyhow."